

Application No. 09/892,833
Amendment dated November 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,475,131 to Nishizawa et al. ("Nishizawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,634 to Inagaki et al. ("Inagaki").

Claims 10-15 are allowed.

Claims 3, 6, and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has no objections to the drawings filed on January 19, 2005, is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 6, and 9, respectively. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Nishizawa in view of Inagaki, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

The Office Action states that claims 3, 6, and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 6, and 9, respectively, which is equivalent to rewriting the subject claims in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, and 7 are now allowable, as are claims 2, 5, and 8 which depend therefrom.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa in view of Inagaki, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.


If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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